

Character Study: Daniel

Part 7 – Daniel's Visions and Prayer

Daniel 7-12

What's happening?

- Chapters 7-12 of the book of Daniel deal with more prophecy concerning Israel's future and the time that will come in the last days.
- Daniel shared a few visions he had received concerning kingdoms that would rise through history, as well as the Son of Man who would ultimately come and establish an everlasting kingdom. He mentioned that before all this comes to pass, there would be an individual who would bring much persecution on the saints during a certain time period. God's judgment would come on this individual and the saints would enjoy God's coming kingdom. (7:1-8:27)
- Grasping God's control over the future, Daniel was overwhelmed with God's faithfulness to His people and had a time of confession of sin. Daniel acknowledged that it was Israel's rebellion that had caused them to face the trouble they were in (captivity in Babylon), so he pleaded for God's mercy. (9:1-19)
- Daniel gave other visions and prophecies concerning Israel's future, concluding with words that anticipated God's final deliverance of His people. He pointed to the day when God's people would experience a resurrection and eternal life. (9:20-12:13)

What's God doing?

> God was giving Daniel a glimpse of the course of human history, as well as the course for His people Israel. God had shown Daniel His power on numerous occasions before, and as a result, Daniel was confident that these predictions would come to pass. Even though the visions revealed some difficult days ahead, God brought a great word of hope and encouragement in His offer of eternal life.

What's to learn?

→ Daniel was so moved by God's prophecy that he became broken and humbled. Do the promises of God ever cause you to examine your life and confess sin? The death of Christ on the cross showed us the seriousness of sin, and the anticipation of Christ's return should cause us to daily examine our lives in order to be sure we are making ourselves ready to be with Him (1 John 3:3).